

Applicant : Carlos Silva et al.
Serial No. : 09/475,391
Filed : December 30, 1999
Page : 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 06975-048001

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

At the bottom of the first page of the specification please insert: ✓

-1-

At the bottom of the second page of the specification please insert: ✓

-2-

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B¹
The box 500 includes a network communication card 514 to communicate with a network server 506 such as an ISP (Internet Service Provider), which provides access to the Internet 508. The box 500 also includes browser client software 516 for communicating with the server, for example, by sending and receiving HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) messages. Additionally, the box 500 includes communication protocol software (e.g., TCP/IP) and an operating system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B²
Fig. 6 shows a set-top box 600a in Washington, D.C. sending a message 600 to a set-top box 600b in Boston via the server 506. The message 600 could be part of an e-mail message, a chat room entry, an instant message, etc. The message includes links 616 and 618 that can control the tuner of a set-top box. Each link 616 and 618, 620 can include a reference to a television channel feature (e.g., "") and instructions for displaying the link on a display (e.g., "<UNDERLINE> FOX </UNDERLINE>"). Like conventional links, the ~~link~~ links 616 and 618, 620 may be represented by one or more graphic images instead of simple text. For example, the ~~link~~ links 616 and 618, 620 may appear as a web banner, for example, advertising a TV show that is displayed when a user visits a URL.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B³ Unlike traditional links that cause a browser to load specified files or an Internet URL (Universal Resource Locator) when selected, the links 616 and 618 in the message 600 can change the channel of the set-top box. This enables friends to exchange messages that include links to a particular network 618 or TV show 616. When selected, the browser tunes the set-top box to the channel corresponding to the network or show specified by a link.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁴ As shown in FIG. 6, the set-top boxes 600A, 600B have received different EPGs 602A, 602B. An EPG is essentially an electronic version of a TV guide. Different EPGs can include different information. For example, an EPG can include a show title 610, channel number 606, network 608, and start 612 and stop 614 times of different TV programs. The EPG also can include other data 615, such as ratings (e.g., "R" and "PG-13") and/or a brief description of the show such as its type (e.g., "sitcom" or "drama") and/or actors that appear in the show. In one embodiment, broadcasters transmit EPG guides to set-top boxes using the vertical blanking interval (VBI) of traditional video signals. Typically, information included in the VBI does not affect the image displayed on a TV. Thus, the VBI provides a convenient buffer for unobtrusively transmitting information to set-top boxes 600A, 600B. In other embodiments, the set-top boxes 600A, 600B can receive an EPG from the server 506 based on the billing address of the set-top box user or a local server access phone number dialed by the set-top box. In yet other embodiments, the EPG may be transmitted by satellite.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁵ A set-top box 600B ~~500B~~ can use the EPG information to select a channel corresponding to a particular link from the shows currently available from the TV source. For example, in Fig. 6, the set-top box 600B ~~500B~~ in Boston has received message including a link 616 referring to the TV show "Friends" from a user in D.C. Looking up the show "Friends" in the "program" column of the Boston set-top box's 600B EPG 602B yields a tuning channel of "10".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁴ The message also includes a link 618 referring to the FOX network. Selection of this link and the ensuing lookup of "FOX" in the "channel name" column of the EPG 602B tunes to the Boston set-top box 600B ~~500B~~ to channel "11".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~10~~¹¹, line ~~29~~¹⁵ with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁷ Fig. 7 shows a process for tuning the set-top system based on a received link. After receiving an EPG 700. The client receives a message including a link that is a reference to a television channel feature (e.g., a network or a show) 702, and user selection of a link 704 causes set-top box software to determine tuning information corresponding to the link 706, for example, by looking-up the information in an EPG. The software tunes 710 the set-top box to the determined tuning channel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁸ The display shown in FIG. 9 illustrates how a display can simultaneously present a television program and a chat room. The television program and chat room may be independent. That is, a user could change TV shows without changing chat rooms and vice-versa.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~8~~¹⁴, line ~~2~~¹ with the following rewritten paragraph:

B⁹ Fig. 11 shows a set-top box display that includes a TV program 1102 and a TV-enhanced buddy list 1110. Like conventional buddy lists, a user can define a list of server system user names. In addition to showing whether users on the list are currently logged on to the server, the enhanced buddy-list shows the TV show or network 1110 each listed buddy 1108 is watching. As shown, the TV show and/or network 1110 can be displayed as a link. By selecting the link, a user can watch the same show that a friend is watching. Inputs 1104 and 1106 may be used to exit the buddy list or select a private chat

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page ~~13~~¹⁴, line ~~22~~¹¹ with the following rewritten paragraph:

B^D Figs. 12A and 12B shows server data 1204 used to provide the enhanced buddy list functions. The data 1204 includes a list 1206 of logged-in users (1200 and 1202) and the TV show and/or network that each user is currently watching. The server also stores a buddy list 1208 for each user. The buddy list 1208 may be permanently stored on the server 1204 or transmitted to the server 1204 by a set-top box when a user logs-on. As shown in Fig. 12A, when a user 1200 changes channels, set-top box software transmits a message 1202 to the server including the name of the show and/or the network the user is presently viewing. As shown in Fig 12B, the server 1204 updates the user list 1206 to reflect the new viewing information. The server also transmits a message 1212 to each logged-in user 1210 that included the channel-changing user in his or her list.